

C. H. Black Manufacturing Company collection S1436

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June 18, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	C. H. Black Manufacturing Company (Indianapolis, Ind.).
Title	C. H. Black Manufacturing Company collection
Date	1891-1893
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S1436

Preferred Citation

C. H. Black Manufacturing Company collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Charles H. Black (1852-1918) was a carriage maker and automobile pioneer, who was born in Hagerstown but moved to Indianapolis as a child. His younger brother, Edward E. Black, was the youngest Union soldier to serve in the Civil War at the age of eight and a half. Charles had a carriage-making business at 44 Pennsylvania Street. In 1891, he tested his first steam-powered buggy. Later that year, he mounted a gasoline-powered engine on a carriage, and drove on the Circle and Delaware Street. Therefore, he was the first person to drive an automobile in Indianapolis. In 1892, his business card for the C. H. Black Manufacturing Company showed a picture of the first automobile he manufactured. However, it was not widely produced. He is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes copies of hand-written letters in ink from the C. H. Black Manufacturing Company. Most of the letters are replies to potential customers asking about certain wagons which C. H. Black can build for them. A letter written on February 26, to "The Supply World, New York City," states that they do not want to place any advertisements at the price quoted, but would place an ad for \$50 a year. A letter written December 17 to a doctor informs him that "We think we understand just what you want. We sold over 1,000 sets of harnesses last year retail and did not have one complaint."

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a records donation from an unknown donor on an unknown date.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2015/05/14 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Indianapolis (Ind.)
- New York City (N.Y.)

Subject(s)

- Automobile industry and trade
- Correspondence